

Animals at Canaveral National Seashore

Canaveral National Seashore (CANA) has a diverse and fascinating variety of aquatic and terrestrial animals. The park provides habitat for 14 species of federally-listed threatened or endangered animals, the second greatest number in the entire National Park Service.

These include seven reptiles:

Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Leather back sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>
Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon coraisi couperi</i>
Atlantic salt marsh snake	<i>Nerodia clarkii taeniata</i>

Four birds:

Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus</i>
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>
Florida scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens coerulescens</i>
Arctic peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>

Three mammals:

West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>
Southeastern beach mouse	<i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i>
Right whale	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>

The park and adjacent Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are well known for great birding and are favored destinations for avid bird watchers. In addition to the the three species listed above, large numbers of migrating waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds can be seen during the spring and fall migration periods and winter.

CANA is equally renowned for outstanding fishing in the ocean surf and Mosquito Lagoon. The lagoon also harbors abundant populations of oysters, clams, blue crabs and shrimp.